



Reducing
Transboundary
Degradation
in the
Kura Aras River Basin

NGO Forum 2012

Linking biodiversity conservation and water management in the transboundary context



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.





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UNDP/GEF Kura Aras Project

Project Overview

Dr. Mary M. Matthews

Project Coordinator, Chief Technical Advisor



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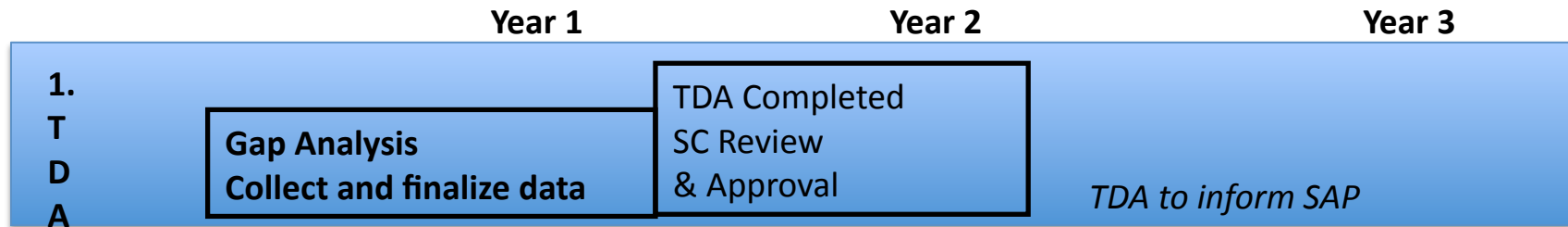


Who we are and what we do

- UNDP/GEF
- 3 Countries
- 3 years
- 4 Project Components



1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

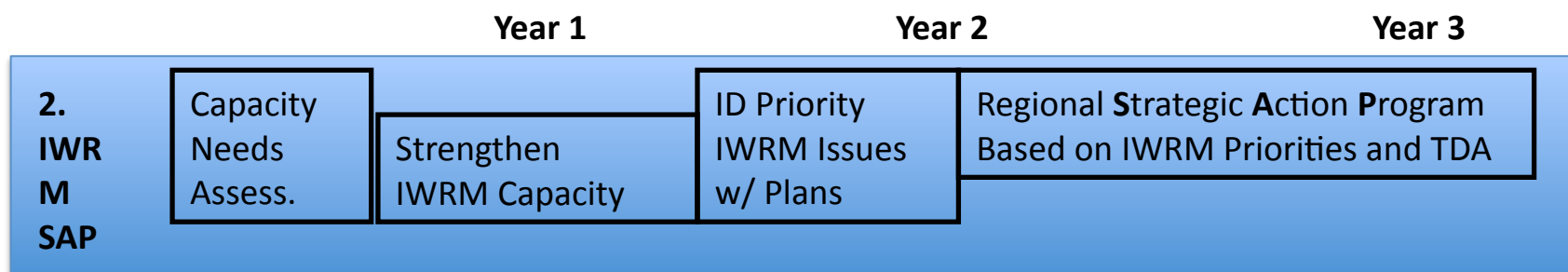


Major Transboundary Issues

- Variation in hydrological flow
- Deterioration of water quality
- Ecosystem degradation
- Flooding and erosion



2. National IWRM* Plans and SAP*



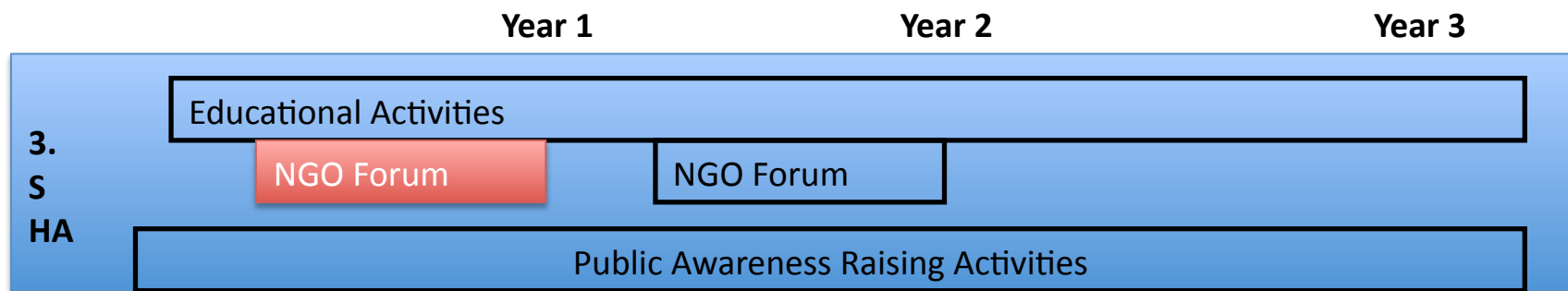
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- * IWRM = Integrated Water Resources Management
- * SAP = Strategic Action Program



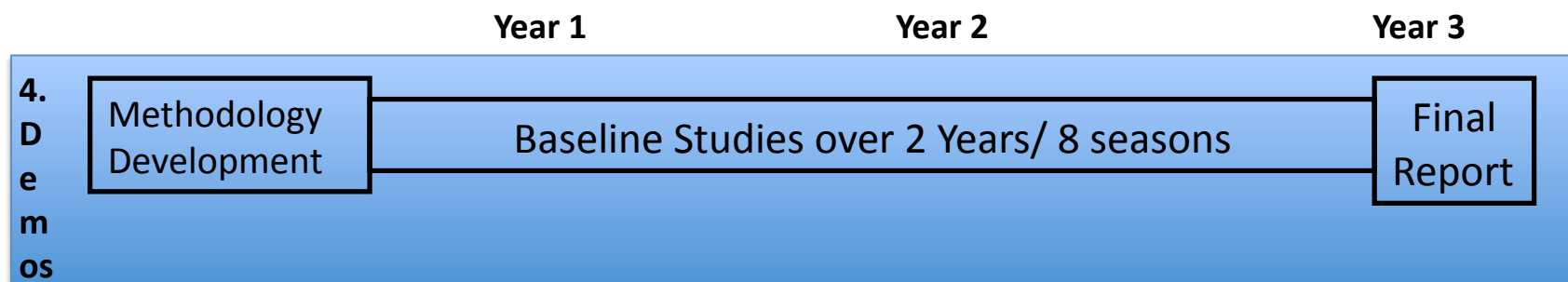
3. Stakeholder Involvement Activities



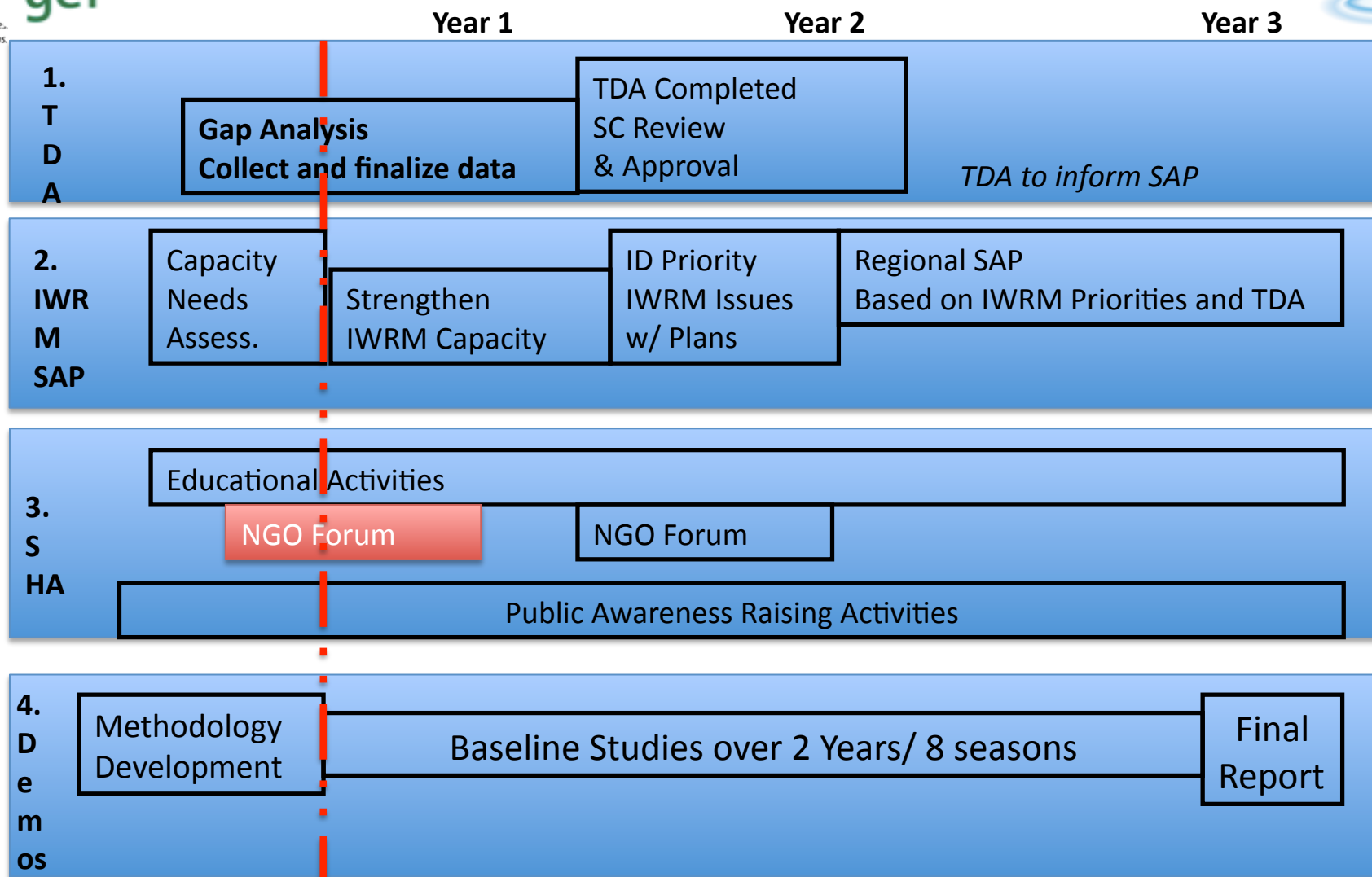
4. Demonstration Project



- Environmental Flows
- Rapid Ecological Assessment
- Bio Monitoring



Full time line – all pulled together



Partnering Organizations

- Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan
- Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia
- *Finnish Syke Bio-Monitoring*
- *EU Project: Trans-boundary River Management Phase III for the Kura River Basin – Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan*
- *EU Project on International River Basins*
- *UNECE Water Policy Dialogue Meetings*
- *OECD Water Policy Dialogue Meetings and Economic Valuation of Water Resources*
- Welcome others too!



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NGO Forum Rationale



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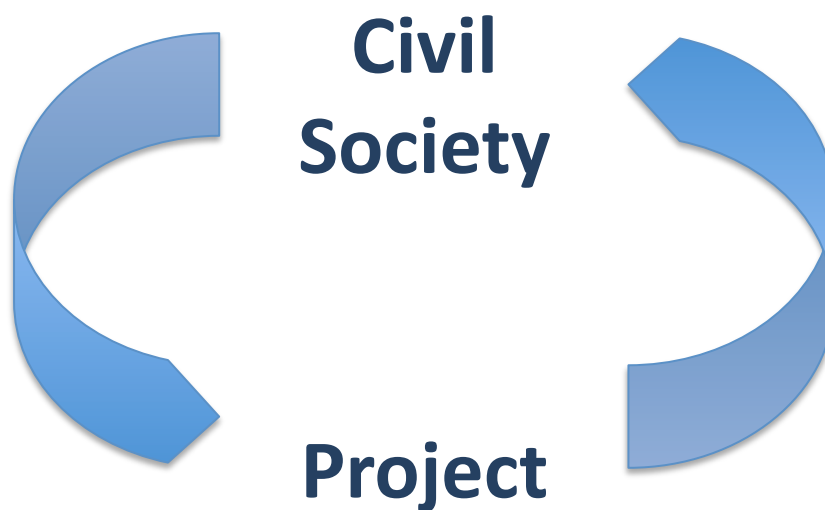
Why are we here today?

- Objectives within the project
 - *How does it fit?*
- Objectives for the day ahead
 - *What are we doing?*
- Envisioned outcomes
 - *Why are we doing it?*



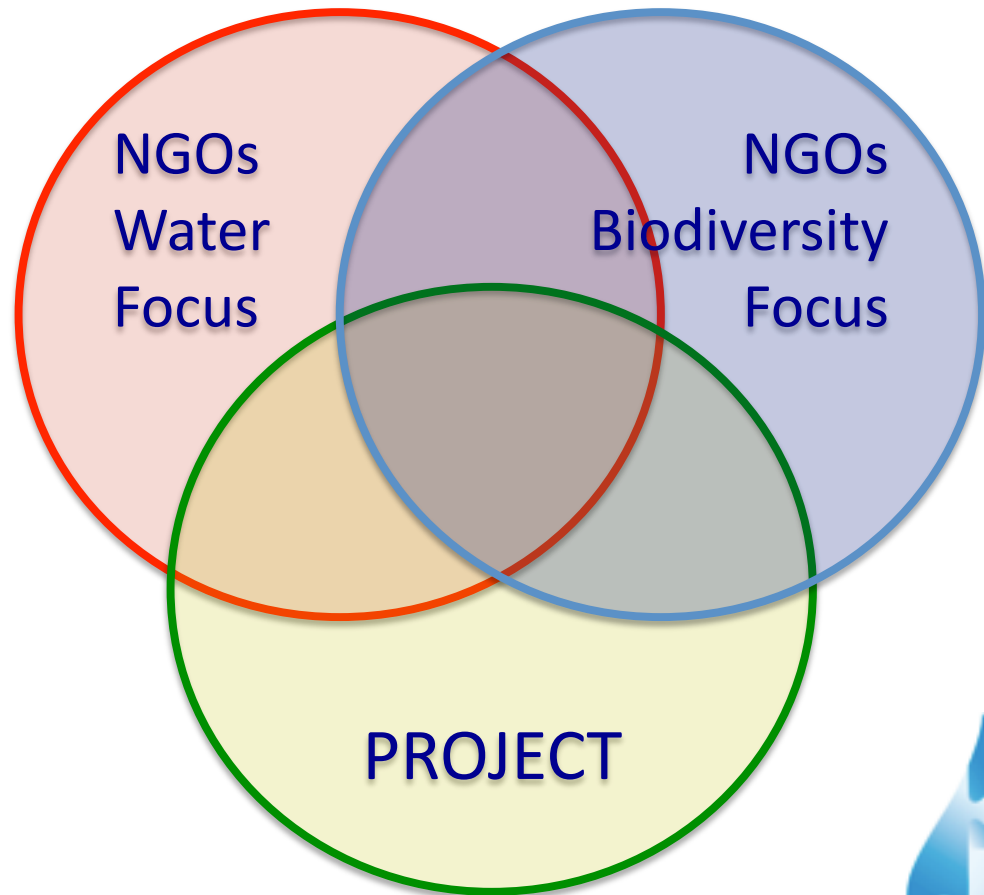
Objectives within the project

- Stakeholder activities at many different levels
- Civil society as a key stakeholder
- Knowledge base of NGO



Objectives for the day ahead

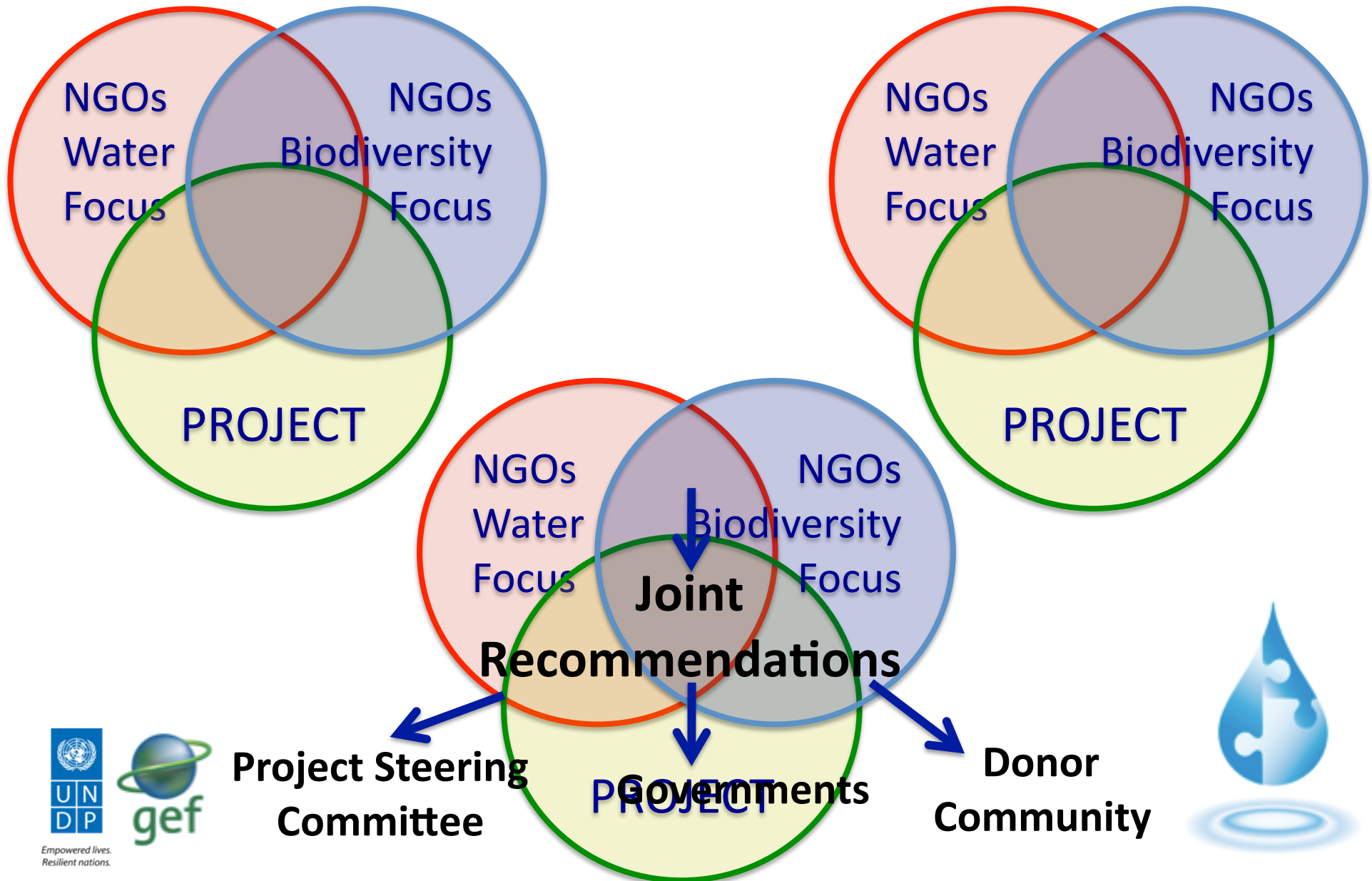
- Introduce the project to NGOs working in related areas
- Introduce NGOs across the region to each other
- Learn: what are the issues?
- Share: what are the concerns?
- Discuss: how can we improve it?



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Envisioned outcomes



How do we get there from here?

- *Introduce ourselves*
- *Consider “Challenges to more fully link biodiversity concerns with water management decision making”*
- *Engage in: Country Group Discussions and Presentations*
- *Consider “Civil Society Involvement in other international systems” and ask: what can we learn from them?*
- *Engage in: Full Group Discussion on Recommendations to strengthen ecological and biodiversity concerns transboundary water management*
 - *Build on ties started today*





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Thank you for being here!



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